

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 07928 161029Z

17

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 051918

R 161006Z DEC 75  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9390  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7928

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG, US, ENRG

SUBJECT: ALLEGED INTRUSION OF U.S. OIL EXPLORATION SHIP

SUMMARY: IDF HAS INDICATED CONCERN OVER ALLEGED INTRUSION OF  
U.S. OIL EXPLORATION SHIP CARIBBEAN SEAL INTO EASTERN PORTION OF  
GULF OF SUEX. END SUMMARY.

1. ON 15 DECEMBER IDF CHIEF OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS (INTEL ORGANIZATION)

PRESENTED OVERLAY AND NARRATIVE STATEMENT TO ARMA CONCERNING  
ALLEGED INTRUSION OF U.S.-REGISTERED OIL EXPLORATION SHIP "CARIBBEAN  
SEAL" INTO ISRAELI-CLAIMED WATERS EAST OF CLAIMED DEMARCATION LINE  
IN GULF OF SUEZ. PRESENTATION WAS MADE QUOTE NOT AS A PROTEST OR  
WARNING, BUT AS A STATEMENT OF ISRAELI CONCERN. UNQUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING INTRUSIONS CLAIMED:

(1) AT APPROX. 232201Z NOV AN IDF SWIFT PATROL CRAFT  
APPROACHED A SHIP AT 28-12.8N 33-32.2E. IDENTIFIED VESSEL AS  
CARIBBEAN SEAL. CHALLENGED SHIP AS TO PURPOSE IN AREA. SEAL  
RESPONDED SHE WAS OIL DRILLING RESEARCH SHIP. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY,  
SEAL STATED SHE WOULD BE IN AREA ABOUT FIVE (5) DAYS. IDF  
SWIFT INSTRUCTED SEAL TO MOVE TO WEST OF DEMARCATION LINE WHICH  
SEAL DID.

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(B) ON 24 NOV AT APPROXIMATELY 10-1200Z, SHIP WAS LOCATED BY RADAR AT 28.17.8N, 33-20E. NO IDF ACTION. IDF CLAIMS HIP WAS SEAL.

(C) ON 261530Z NOV, IDF SWIFT BOAT INTERCEPTED SEAL AT 28-11.5N, 33.33E. SEAL WAS TOWING CABLE AND BOUYS. SEAL WAS ADVISED TO MOVE WEST, AND DID.

(D) ON 290945Z NOV, IDF SWIFT BOAT INTERCEPTED SEAL AFTER RADAR CONTACT AT 28-08N, 33.32.3E. SEAL WAS TOWING CABLE AND BOUYS. IDF CLAIMS SEAL WAS 1.6 MILES EAST OF DEMARCATION LINE. SWIFT BOAT ORDERED DEAL OUT OF AREA. SEAL PULLED IN BOUYS AND MOVED TO WEST.

(EL AT 301755Z NOV, THE SEAL WAS SPOTTED BY A SWIFT BOAT. SEAL INSTRUCTED TO MOVE WEST AND DID SO. REPORTED LOCATION WAS 27.54.8N, 33-44.2E. NO FURTHER CONTACTS REPORTED BY IDF TO EMBASSY.

3. IDF CHIEF OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS STATED THAT IT WAS FELT THAT OWNERS OF CARIBBEAN SEAL COULD AT LEAST CONSULT WITH ISRAEL BEFORE INTRUDING, ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT STATE WHAT ISRAELI RESPONSE WOULD BE TO SUCH CONSULTATION. HOWEVER, HE FELT SOME PRIOR ACTION IS INDICATED TO AVOID QUOTE INCIDENT OR ACCIDENT UNQUOTE.

4. WE ARE UNABLE TO EVALUATE IF IDF APPROACH IS RESPONSE TO PRIOR CONSULTATION ACTION URGED BY AMBASSADOR OF MINDEF PERES. LAPSE OF FIFTEEN (15) DAYS BETWEEN LAST REPORTED INCIDENT AND APPROACH TO EMBASSY DOES, IN OUR VIEW INDICATE SOME ISRAELI CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION AS CONCERNS OIL EXPLORATION BY U.S. FLAGS IN GULF OF SUEX AND RESULTANT U.S. RESPONSE. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THIS APPROACH WAS COORDINATED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

5. ACTION: REQUEST ADVICE WHETHER ANY RESPONSE SHOULD BE MADE TO ISRAELI APPROACH.  
TOON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW OF THE SEA, TERRITORIAL WATERS VIOLATIONS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, CARIBBEAN SEAL R/V, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

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**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALLEGED INTRUSION OF U.S. OIL EXPLORATION SHIP SUMMARY: IDF HAS INDICATED CONCERN OVER ALLEGED INTRUSION OF  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ENRG, PLOS, US, IS, EG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006